Minnesota
State Public School
For Dependent Children

JUL 2 1919

Survey of Results
of
Twenty-Eight Years Work

(Address delivered by Galen A. Merrill, Superintendent of State Public School, at Quarterly Conference of Executive Officers of State Institutions with the State Board of Control, at the State Sanatorium for Consumptives, August 3, 1915.)

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STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN. SURVEY OF RESULTS OF TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS' WORK.

Galen A. Merrill, Superintendent State Public School.

From the opening of this institution December 2, 1886, to December 2, 1914, 5,098 children, 3,042 boys and 2,056 girls, were committed to its guardianship. On the latter date 307 remained in the institution. The others, with some exceptions, had been placed out under supervision, some with their own people, but most of them in foster homes, after a period of care and training in the institution.

Individual records of the progress and development of the children have been kept. These records include information obtained by our state agents who have personally visited the children at intervals in their homes or places of employment. Some of the results as shown by the records of the first 4,000 children received are summarized in the statement which follows. Those who have developed into men and women of good character and are fulfilling the requirements of good citizenship, and the minor wards who are developing normally, meeting the requirements of good homes and giving promise of success, are designated as doing well. Those who have been less successful or who are not developing so satisfactorily but who have become or give promise of becoming at least self-supporting, respectable citizens, are designated as doing fairly well. Those who are regarded in the communities where they live as undesirable citizens or who do not give promise of becoming useful are classified as doing poorly.

BOYS, 2,407.

	Total.	Doing Well.	Doing Fairly Well.	Doing Poorly.
Farmers	885	624—70%	212—24%	49— 6%
Day laborers	210	89—43%	78—37%	43—20%
Salesmen	56	49	5	2
Office clerks	30	28	2	.....
Chauffeurs	26	18	6	2
Carpenters	20	19	1	.....
Traveling salesmen	19	14	5	.....
Teamsters	17	5	9	3
Teachers	16	16	.....	.....
Mechanical engineers	16	16	.....	.....
In navy, enlisted men	16	3	9	4
Buttermakers	14	14	.....	.....
Machinists	13	13	.....	.....
Electricians	12	11	1	.....
Stationary firemen	12	8	3	1
In army, enlisted men	10	3	3	4
Merchants	8	8	.....	.....
Telegraph operators	8	8	.....	.....
Printers	8	6	1	1
Cooks	8	5	3	.....
Elevator men	8	7	1	.....
Janitors	7	6	1	.....
Barbers	7	5	1	1
Porters	7	5	2	.....
Coopers	5	5	.....	.....
Miners	5	2	2	1
Brakemen	5	3	2	.....
Painters	5	2	3	.....
Street car conductors	4	4	.....	.....
Locomotive firemen	4	4	.....	.....
Engravers	4	4	.....	.....
Cigarmakers	4	.....	3	1
Actors	4	1	3	.....
Army officers	4	4	.....	.....
Waiters	4	3	.....	1
Civil engineers	3	3	.....	.....
Nurses	3	3	.....	.....

	Total.	Doing Well.	Doing Fairly Well.	Doing Poorly.
Stenographers	3	3	.....	.....
Plumbers	3	3	.....	.....
Masons	3	2	1	.....
Bakers	3	3	.....	.....
Hotel clerks	3	2	.....	1
Sailors	3	.....	3	.....
Electrical engineers	2	2	.....	.....
Express agents	2	2	.....	.....
Postal clerks	2	2	.....	.....
Photographers	2	2	.....	.....
Millers	2	1	.....	1
Real estate agents	2	2	.....	.....
Insurance agents	2	2	.....	.....
Musicians	2	2	.....	.....
Florists	2	1	1	.....
Tinners	2	2	.....	.....
Tailors	2	1	1	.....
Broom makers	2	.....	2	.....
Blacksmiths	2	2	.....	.....
Livery men	2	1	.....	1
Section foremen	2	2	.....	.....
Railway news agents	2	2	.....	.....
Tramps	2	.....	.....	2
Gamblers	2	.....	.....	2
College instructors	1	1	.....	.....
Lawyer	1	1	.....	.....
Publisher	1	1	.....	.....
Bank cashier	1	1	.....	.....
Assistant state bank examiner	1	1	.....	.....
Steward in state institution.	1	1	.....	.....
Government meat inspector.	1	1	.....	.....
Member Catholic Brotherhood	1	1	.....	.....
Salvation Army officer	1	1	.....	.....
Naval officer	1	1	.....	.....
Manufacturing dentist	1	1	.....	.....
Logging contractor	1	1	.....	.....
Building mover	1	1	.....	.....
Owner disinfecting factory	1	1	.....	.....
Restaurant keeper	1	1	.....	.....
Jeweler	1	1	.....	.....
Harness maker	1	1	.....	.....
Shoemaker	1	1	.....	.....
Butcher	1	.....	1	.....
Meat cutter	1	.....	1	.....
Patternmaker	1	1	.....	.....
Horse dealer	1	1	.....	.....
Member fire department	1	1	.....	.....
Railway conductor	1	1	.....	.....
Locomotive engineer	1	1	.....	.....
Station agent	1	1	.....	.....
Brake inspector	1	1	.....	.....
Coachman	1	.....	1	.....
Ball player	1	.....	1	.....
Canadian mounted police	1	1	.....	.....
Bootblack	1	.....	1	.....
Horse jockey	1	.....	.....	1
Bartender	1	.....	.....	1
In St. Cloud reformatory	10	.....	.....	10
In state's prison	3	.....	.....	3
In insane hospital	1	.....	.....	1
County charges, hospital subjects	4	.....	.....	4
Feeble-minded	65	.....	.....	65
Remaining in foster farm homes	342	249—73%	77—22%	16— 5%
Remaining in foster city homes	92	72—78%	16—18%	4— 4%
With parents in city homes.	105	62—59%	24—23%	19—18%
With parents in country homes	45	26—58%	11—24%	8—18%
Remaining in state public school	15	12	3	.....
In school for blind, Faribault	2	.....	2	.....
In school for deaf, Faribault	1	1	.....	.....
In government Indian school, Carlyle	1	1	.....	.....
	2,260	1,506—67%	502—22%	252—11%
Died	147			
Total boys	2,407			

GIRLS, 1,593.

MARRIED.

	Total.	Doing Well.	Doing Fairly Well.	Doing Poorly.
Farmers' wives	169	148—87%	15— 9%	6— 4%
Day laborers' wives	50	10—20%	23—46%	17—34%
Salesmen's wives	17	17	.....	.....
Merchants' wives	13	13	.....	.....
Carpenters' wives	5	5	.....	.....
Barbers' wives	5	2	.....	3
Traveling salesmen's wives	4	4	.....	.....
Musicians' wives	2	1	1	.....
Hotel keepers' wives	2	2	.....	.....
Masons' wives	2	.....	2	.....
Painters' wives	2	.....	2	.....
Teamsters' wives	2	.....	2	.....
Banker's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Lawyer's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Publisher's wife	1	.....	.....	1
School superintendent's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Miller's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Photographer's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Mechanical engineer's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Electrical engineer's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Millwright's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Locomotive fireman's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Motorman's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Office clerk's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Printer's wife	1	.....	1	.....
Stone cutter's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Policeman's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Miner's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Baggageman's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Waiter's wife	1	.....	.....	1
Porter's wife	1	1	.....	.....
Showman's wife	1	.....	1	.....
Ball player's wife	1	.....	1	.....
Bartender's wife	1	.....	1	.....
	295	218—74%	49—17%	28— 9%

UNMARRIED.

	Total.	Doing Well.	Doing Fairly Well.	Doing Poorly.
Doing house work, country homes	159	106—68%	36—22%	17—10%
Doing house work, city homes	101	29—29%	52—51%	20—20%
Teachers	43	43	.....	.....
Telephone operators	24	19	5	.....
Saleswomen	23	17	5	1
Dressmakers	22	17	5	.....
Nurses	14	14	.....	.....
Office clerks	14	12	1	1
Stenographers	13	13	.....	.....
Waitresses	12	5	3	4
Seamstresses	9	6	3	.....
Milliners	3	3	.....	.....
Cooks	2	1	1	.....
Chorus girls	2	.....	.....	2
Sisters of charity	2	2	.....	.....
Institution matron	1	1	.....	.....
Postmistress	1	1	.....	.....
ndent in orphans' home.	1	1	.....	.....
Janitress	1	1	.....	.....
Laundress	1	1	.....	.....
County charges, hospital subjects	4	.....	.....	4
Feeble-minded	63	.....	.....	63
In state sanatorium, Walker	1	.....	1	.....
In hospital for crippled children	1	1	.....	.....
Remaining in foster farm homes	335	287—86%	35—10%	13— 4%
Remaining in foster city homes	174	161—93%	11— 6%	2— 1%
With parents in city homes	134	64—48%	52—39%	18—13%
With parents in country homes	30	19—49%	11—28%	9—23%

	Total.	Doing Well.	Doing Fairly Well.	Doing Poorly.
Remaining in state public school	5	3	2	.....
In school for blind, Faribault	1	1	.....	.....
In government Indian school, Carlyle	1	1	.....	.....
Total unmarried	1,206	829—69%	223—18%	154—13%
Total married as shown.	295	218	49	28
	1,501	1,047	272	182
Died	92			
Total girls	1,593			

This group of 4,000 children includes the older ones who have attained majority and are pursuing their chosen vocations or working for themselves, and the minor wards who have become established in their homes. The oldest person in the group is 41 years old. The small percentage of those remaining in their homes who are doing poorly is worthy of note. Those remaining in foster homes, in cities especially, include many children who were taken from the school when very young by wealthy or well-to-do families for adoption. The results in such cases have been very satisfactory.

For many of the children the country is the best place; those who have gone into country homes and remained there are, as a rule, more satisfactorily situated than those who have left the farms and gone to the cities. Only 6 per cent of the boys who have followed farming as an occupation and only 4 per cent of the girls who have married farmers have done poorly, while 20 per cent of the boys who have no regular occupation but depend on day labor and 34 per cent of the girls who have married day laborers have done poorly. The number of day laborers is made up largely from those who have left their farm homes and gone to the cities. Girls placed in farm homes have usually done well. They have become members of the community, have married the sons of farmers in the neighborhood, and established homes of their own. It is also true that the girls who remain in the country to do housework in the farmers' families do better than those who drift to the cities and become domestics in city homes. In contrast with the social position of the girl who does housework in a city home, the country girl is the social equal of the girls in the farmer's family and those in the neighborhood and is treated as such.

It will be seen that a larger percentage of the children returned to their own parents are doing poorly than of those placed in foster homes. A higher standard is maintained for the approval of foster homes than of the children's own homes. In many cases, however, the circumstances of the parents have improved sufficiently to enable them to care properly for their children and the children have done fairly well.

The results indicate that, as a rule, the children have become a part of the normal population, attending the public schools and engaging in the social, religious and industrial activities of the communities in which they live; that those who have reached man's and woman's estate are, a large majority of them, maintaining themselves honorably as citizens of good character.

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